

Please amend Claims 1, 3-5, 10, 18, 20-23, 27 and 28. Amendments to the claims are indicated in the attached "Marked Up Version of Amendments" (pages i - iv).

- C1  
Sub 1/2
1. (Twice Amended) A method for prioritizing a network management request sent by a management station to a managed element, comprising the steps of:  
 assigning a priority value to the network management request dependent upon a user identifier in a network management wrapper included in the request, the user identifier identifying the user of an application from which the request was sent; and  
 scheduling the network management request, by the managed element dependent on the assigned priority value.

- C2  
Sub 3
3. (Twice Amended) The method as claimed in Claim 2 wherein the step of assigning further comprises the step of:  
 adding a priority value to an authentication group comprising a plurality of users, in an authentication table.

4. (Twice Amended) The method as claimed in Claim 2 wherein the step of assigning further comprises the step of:  
 adding a priority value to a user identifier in a source identification table.

- Sub E1
5. (Twice Amended) The method as claimed in Claim 3 wherein the step of scheduling further comprises the steps of:  
 extracting a user identifier from the received network management request; and  
 determining the priority value by using the extracted user identifier to index the authentication table.

- C3
10. (Twice Amended) The method as claimed in Claim 3 wherein the step of scheduling further comprises the step of:  
 extracting the user identifier from the network management request; and  
 determining the priority value by using the extracted user identifier to index the source identification table.

18. (Twice Amended) An apparatus for prioritizing a network management request sent by a management station to a managed element, comprising:

C4  
Sub 4  
D7

a priority assignment routine which assigns a priority value to the network management request dependent upon a user identifier in a network management header included in the request, the user identifier identifying the user of an application from which the request was sent; and

a network management request routine which schedules the network management request in the managed element dependent on the assigned priority value.

- Sub 5  
D7
20. (Twice Amended) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 19 wherein the priority assignment routine further comprises:

C5

a priority value assignment routine which adds a priority value to an authentication group comprising a plurality of users, in an authentication table.

21. (Twice Amended) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 20 wherein the network management routine further comprises:

E1

a user identification extraction routine which extracts a user identifier from the network management request; and

a priority value extraction routine which determines the priority value by using the extracted user identifier to index the authentication table.

22. (Twice Amended) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 19 wherein the priority value assignment routine further comprises:

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a priority value assignment routine which adds a priority value to a user identifier in a source identification table.

23. (Twice Amended) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 22 wherein the network management routine further comprises:

E1

a source identification extraction routine which extracts the user identifier from the network management request; and

a priority value determination routine which determines the priority value using the extracted user identifier to index the source identification table.

27. (Twice Amended) An apparatus for prioritizing a network management request sent by a management station to a managed element, comprising:
- a priority assignment routine;
  - a network management request scheduler;
  - means, within the priority assignment routine, for assigning a priority value to the network management request dependent upon a user identifier in a network management wrapper included in the network management request, the user identifier identifying the user of an application from which the request was sent; and
  - means, within the network management request scheduler, for scheduling the network management request in the managed element dependent on the assigned priority value.
28. (Twice Amended) A computer program product for prioritizing a network management request sent by a management station to a managed element, the computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable code thereon, including program code which:
- assigns a priority value to the network management request dependent upon a user identifier in a network management header included in the request, the user identifier identifying the user of the application from which the request was sent; and
  - schedules the network management request in the managed element dependent on the assigned priority value.